instituting some type of regional program each municipality must look at the existing expenditures associated with the service in combination with the quality or level of service being provided. The following information illustrates the costs of providing fire service and the overall impact fire service expenditures have on each of the MetroWest communities. It should be noted that the following baseline data should be followed by a more detailed analysis of each individual fire department to determine the exact costs expenditures of each department, and whether specific programs, equipment, or services could benefit from some type of regional program.

Table 2 illustrates the differences in community funding for fire service provision. For example, four communities have privatized Emergency Medical Service (EMS) service while the other five fire departments provide the service themselves. Also, the cost per capita spending varies considerably and does not seem to have a correlation to the provision of EMS. For example, Weston has the highest rate of per capita spending for fire service at $164, which does not include EMS. Wayland and Southborough have two of the lowest per capita costs for fire services and both communities provide EMS. The variation in per capita costs may be more of a function of the ratio of full time fire fighters to volunteers, and levels of services provided by each community. It does not relate to community size either.

Table 2

COST PER CAPITA SPENDING FOR FIRE SERVICE

1995

TOWN	Population	Budget	EMS	FT Fire Fighters	Cost/ Capita
Ashland	15,022	$ 709,000	No	12	$47.20
Framingham	65,000	7,000,000	No	170	107.69
Marlborough	35,000	3,100,000	No	70	88.57
Natick	30,510	3,000,000	Yes	75	98.33
Southborough	7,297	485,234	Yes	8	66.49
Sudbury	15,510	1,500,000	Yes	33	96.71
Wayland	12,725	985,000	Yes	34	77.40
Wellseley	26,615	2,822,000	No	44	106.03
Weston	10,699	1,761,000	No	44	164.59
TOTALS	**218,653**	**$21,362,234**	—	**490**	**$94.78**

NOTE
Fire department budgets do not include capital expenditures.
The 1995 population figures in this were obtained from each Town Clerk. In some cases, this data is not consistent with the MAPC Data Center forecasts provided in Table 1.
Source: Fire District Fourteen, and Town Clerks 1996.

- Between fiscal year 90 and 94, fire service expenditures as a percentage of each of the town's overall budget remained consistent (**Table 4**).
- In 1995, the average per capita spending by the MetroWest towns for fire service was $94.78. This compared to the Fire District Fourteen average per capita spending by their 22 member towns of $81.50.
- MetroWest towns allocate between 4% and 9% of their total town budgets to fire service. (**Table 4**). A comparison of the budgets from FY1990 and 1994 also indicates that